You said that candidates who had once failed in the English School Leaving Certificate Examination should be allowed to appear privately for that examination again. The Director of Public Instruction, Mr. Hodgson, is against that. He states that a second year's study in the school is necessary, in case a pupil fails to secure a satisfactory certificate at the end of the first year. Your suggestion cannot be given effect to without the present Acting Director being consulted. This will be done.

Your representation regarding the appointment of Sanskrit Munshies in Vernacular Middle Schools will be considered, as also the one for the compulsory teaching of Sanskrit in vernacular schools.

You have suggested that the students of primary classes should be taught in two batches—one in the morning and the other in the afternoon. It is a system worthy of consideration and the matter is now engaging the attention of the Government.

You want a Second Grade College at Chengannur. As the Government cannot finance it at present, the matter has to be dropped. It will, however, be considered when the report of the University Committee is received.

As regards the admission of students to any standard to which they are fit after private study, the Director's opinion will be called for.

Your suggestions regarding the proposed University and the encouragement to be afforded to Malayalam short-hand by its being made a subject of study in the Commercial School are noted. You said that there was some difference in the pay of the teachers employed in the Districts forming the old northern and southern ranges. The Inspector of Vernacular Schools tells me that this difference is now in process of rectification.

Regarding extension of service to subordinate officers a G. O. has been issued.

As regards the publication of all Government proceedings, etc., in Malayalam, the matter was referred to by Mr. Mammen Mappillai at the last session of the Assembly. Malayalam is the language in Magistrate's courts and other courts and public offices. All officers of Government are required by the Travancore Service Regulations to be conversant with the vernacular. The Legislative Council Proceedings are translated into Malayalam and every encouragement is afforded by the Government for the development of Malayalam.

124. Certain suggestions towards the evolution of a better educational policy for the State.

Mr. S. Nilakanta Aiyar (Member, Municipal Council, Attingal) referred to the working of the present system of education and said that a large number of young men were flocking to the Government for employment, since they had no equipment for a career in any other walk of life. Education for its own sake had become a creed ; but the present conditions of life required that there should be a utilitarian side to education. It was absolutely impossible for the Government to provide places for all in the public service and hence the question of unemployment would naturally loom large in the near future. The most promising youths of the country were discontented and in the unemployed list, which was not a desirable state of affairs from an economic point of view. The only remedy was the introduction of vocational education in vernacular schools such as spinning, weaving, agriculture, smithery, carpentry, etc. The impression that manual training would serve as an introduction to vocational training was a delusion, as, in the opinion of experts on manual training, it was the cultural value that counted and not the utilitarian aspect of it. The Member thought that it was essential that the system of education imparted in schools should be practical and enable its recipients to earn a living. If it was not feasible to introduce vocational training in vernacular schools, it was undesirable to have the present lengthy course of vernacular education extending over a period of nine years. It would be better to stop with the 4 years' instruction now imparted in primary schools. Next, taking up the English schools, the Member said that the education imparted was indisputably removed from life, and that it was unreal, mechanical and

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injurious. To remove the evils resulting from such a system the Member made the following suggestions : —

1. Some of the subjects included in the course of studies in High Schools should be substituted by commercial subjects such as book-keeping and banking, which should be made optional.

2. Under the present arrangement Indian and Travancore history did not form a subject for public examinations. It was a sorry spectacle that those who came out of those examinations did not know anything about the past of their own country. It was highly necessary that a study of the history of Travancore and India, together with an outline of the constitution and civics of both, should be made compulsory for all students, whatever be their optional subjects of study.

The Member emphasised the need for good books for detailed study in the various classes and opined that non-detailed books were not necessary, especially in the lower classes. In dealing with the question of fee concessions, the Member said that those concessions were not based on sound principles, since there was no provision for helping pupils belonging to communities outside the pale of the G. O. regulating those concessions. The Member suggested that provision be made for a number of free studentships in every school and that the discretion in the matter of the award of free studentships be vested in the headmasters of the respective schools in question. He then stated that there was great delay in the disbursement of scholarships which caused much inconvenience to the poor scholarship-holders and suggested that the amounts of scholarships might be set off against fees and the balance, if any, paid to the scholarship-holders, as such a course would really serve the purpose of awarding scholarships, so far as poor students were concerned. Referring to the question of selection of teachers, the Member laid stress on the need for a proper selection and suggested that the emoluments be made to compare favourably with those for similar qualifications in other departments.

The other suggestions made by the Member were—

(1) that Head-masters' and Teachers' Conferences be given a proper place in the scheme of administration of the Education Department and that their recommendations and resolutions be made to form the basis for shaping the educational policy of the State ; and

(2) that vernacular be made the medium of instruction in High Schools especially in subjects not purely of a scientific nature; and

(3) that religious and moral instruction be imparted in all schools.

In conclusion, the Member advocated the appointment of Indian educational experts to overhaul the system of education in Travancore.

President's reply.—You referred to the delay in the disbursement of scholarships in the College. I understand from the Director of Public Instruction that there is not much delay in the payment of these scholarships. If, however, there is delay in any case, it will be looked into. The Director will be asked to see that these scholarships are awarded and disbursed promptly.

Your suggestion that the scholarships be set off against the fees and that the balance alone be paid to the scholarship-holders will be referred to the Director of Public Instruction.

Your suggestions regarding the curricula of studies and the text books for non-detailed study are noted.

Your further suggestion that concessions in the matter of fees should be given only to the deserving poor is noted.

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS.—(*Continued.*)

125. Certain needs of Attingal.

Mr. S. Nilakanta Aiyar (Member, Municipal Council, Attingal) in speaking about the need of a satrom at Attingal for the travelling public said that it was not

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